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## Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, January 3, 2013)

The Senate met at 12:30 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, sovereign of the nations, we place our trust in You. Infuse our lawmakers with a spirit of discernment that they may fulfill Your purposes for our Nation and world. Lord, stir them up with the fresh realization of the supernatural resources available to them to accomplish their tasks. As they seek Your guidance on all decisions, guard their hearts and minds with Your peace. Help our Senators to give one another kindness, patience, and encouragement as You saturate their hearts with Your grace and joy.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter.

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 4, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### JOINT SESSION FOR COUNTING OF ELECTORAL VOTES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will recess for the joint session for the counting of electoral votes.

Following the joint session, we are hoping to complete action on part of the flood insurance of the Sandy supplemental, which the House just passed.

### RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:33 p.m., recessed to reassemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives for a Joint Session and at 1:56 p.m. reassembled in the Senate Chamber when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York is recognized.

### HELPING THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE SANDY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise in support of the legislation we are about to vote on that will provide an

additional \$9.7 billion to the National Flood Insurance Program. Without these funds, the program would have run out of money next week, leaving over 100,000 victims of Hurricane Sandy in the lurch.

I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for allowing this vote to go forward. They have acted honorably. The good news is the House passed this bill this morning and the Senate will pass it in a few minutes.

With the passage of this bill, hurricane victims from Staten Island to east Long Island, as well as in New Jersey, can rest assured their flood insurance will have enough money to pay out claims. We had no choice but to pass this provision because the Federal Government is obligated to reimburse when people have floods if they have paid in their flood insurance.

While this bill is important, it is something we were almost obligated to do, and we should not have parades down the street because this bill has passed.

The major work of helping the victims of Sandy is still ahead of us. The bad news is we even had to go through this dog-and-pony show in the first place.

Last month, the Senate passed a good, strong bill to help all victims of Hurricane Sandy, and the House simply could have taken it up and passed it. In fact, they promised to vote on a similar provision before the last Congress ended.

Unfortunately, this changed at the last moment. We do not need to get into the whys right now; we just want it to happen, and we are worried the second major portion of this relief bill will not get through the House in the form it should.

We need the House to pass not only the \$9 billion they passed this morning but the \$51 billion that contains the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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